



STATE OF WASHINGTON

**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

*48 Devonshire Road • Montesano, Washington 98563-9618 • (360) 246-4628 FAX (360) 664-0689*

July 13, 2005

To Interested Parties:

The enclosed packet includes: two summary sheets of regulations governing the 2005 Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor commercial fishing seasons (Table 1 and 2); copies of the regulations pertaining to the fall commercial fisheries in Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor; a summary sheet for Quick Reporting.

Final regulations have been adopted and will be published under Washington Administrative Code (WAC) prior to the 2005 Fall Commercial Salmon management period. Items of special note are identified below.

**Willapa Bay Fall Fishery** – As in 2004 the western deadline in Area 2G will be the most waterward exposed portion of the rock jetty. The fall gillnet season is scheduled to start at 6PM September 18, 2005. The maximum mesh size allowed during September is 6”, nets must hang straight from top to bottom and strings may only be used to secure break-away panels. There is a planned 24-hour closure from 6PM September 23 through 6PM September 24<sup>th</sup>. When fishing resumes on September 24<sup>th</sup> the eastern deadline restriction at marker 40 in area 2H will be removed. For openings during October the maximum mesh restriction is 6 ½”. During the November sturgeon directed season the minimum mesh size is 9”.

**Grays Harbor Fall Fishery** – In Areas 2A, 2C, and 2D, live boxes are required and ALL chinook, non-legal sturgeon and steelhead must be released. Fishers who intend to participate in the early October openings in Areas 2A, 2C, and 2D must be willing to take on-board observers. Because of this requirement it is imperative that all fishers who wish to participate provide **Notice of Intent prior to 10 am on October 7<sup>th</sup>, to participate in the October 8<sup>th</sup> opening in Area 2C AND prior to 10 am October 12, to participate in the October 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> openings.** Confirmation that notice of intent was received will be provided upon request. For the late-October openings in Area 2B notice of intent to participate is not required, however fishers must take on-board observers if requested.

Wholesale dealers and fishers retailing their fish should note that “Quick Reporting” of catches is required for all salmon and sturgeon landed, this includes all “take home”. All purchases are required to be reported to WDFW by 10:00 A.M. of the day following the commercial landing. The quick reporting requirement does not preclude the obligation of buyers to report catches on fish tickets.

Reports can be made by:

- fax (360) 664-0689
- telephone 1-866-791-1280
- email to [harborfishtickets@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:harborfishtickets@dfw.wa.gov)

The quick reporting summary must include: the dealer's name, purchasing location, date of purchase, list of fish ticket numbers used on the purchasing date, commercial fishing gear type, catch area, species, number and total weight of fish. Please note that a "statewide quick reporting summary sheet" has been included for your convenience.

These regulations are subject to change based on in-season information. You are advised to call the Department of Fish and Wildlife hotline at (360) 902-2500 or (360) 249-4628 before going fishing to verify fishery schedules and regulations. For additional information or questions, please call Barbara McClellan at (360) 249-1213 or Bill Campbell at (360) 249-1203.

### **Atlantic Salmon**

Wholesale dealers and fishers are asked to contact the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife should Atlantic salmon be taken during any fishery in Washington waters. Please notify the appropriate WDFW staff member of when and where the fish was encountered or contact Fish Program in Olympia at (360) 902-2700.